# South Africa's Constitutional Court Rules Ex-President Jacob Zuma Ineligible for Parliament Election



South Africa's Constitutional Court has ruled that former President Jacob Zuma is ineligible to run for parliament in the upcoming election on May 29, 2024. Zuma, who resigned from the presidency in 2018 amid protests, was sentenced in 2021 to 15 months in prison for failing to appear at a corruption inquiry.

The ruling overturns an April court decision that had initially allowed Zuma to stand for election, arguing he had not had the chance to appeal his sentence. However, the electoral commission challenged this, and the Constitutional Court upheld the disqualification based on a constitutional clause barring individuals sentenced to 12 months or more from holding a parliamentary seat.

Zuma has been actively campaigning for a new party, uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK), named after the African National Congress’s (ANC) former armed wing. This new party poses a significant threat to the ANC's long-standing majority, particularly in Zuma's home province of KwaZulu-Natal.

The court's decision is significant as it comes just over a week before the national elections, potentially impacting both Zuma's political ambitions and the broader electoral landscape in South Africa.